

but may be said in general to concern the spirit in which the system is carried out, there being too much solicitude for the working men. This encourages fraud and an over anxiety to get on the funds as pensioners. The pamphlet has been said to carry less weight in Germany than with foreign reviewers. The present director of the German Imperial Statistical Department has warned us not to take the pamphlet too seriously, as the author has always been regarded in his own country as an extremist. One who has analyzed carefully all his contentions summarizes them as sarcastic, biassed and often inconsistent and self-contradictory. Their chief virtue lies in the fact that they give a needed warning against the danger of allowing the administration of a system to be guided by a short-sighted humanitarianism, which of course is readily possible (8).

In 1914 there was issued in this country a translation of a large pamphlet by Professor Ludwig Bernhard, of the University of Berlin, entitled "Undesirable Results of German Social Legislation." This booklet deals, as does the one just referred to, with the whole scheme of social insurance, but includes pertinent references to compensation for injuries. The important counts in the author's indictment which concern us are: the granting of pensions leads to feigned incapacity and unexpected slowness of recovery even to the extent of actual attempts at retarding recovery from wounds, etc.; the fact of being insured produces, even in the case of slightly injured men, a nervous condition under which work becomes impossible; conversation on the part of friends and relatives suggests illness and weakness, and there has arisen what has been called an "accident-law neurosis" as distinguished from an "accident neurosis"; any reforms to the law to prevent impositions and injustices have become very difficult because no legislators want to risk the opposition of the labour vote; the fact that appeals can be taken by workmen without cost means that a great many cases have to be considered needlessly and this social legislation becomes administered for the promotion of party politics (9).

In regard to these claims we may say for one thing that the claims are too vague to be admitted as a wholesale indictment of a vast system that is too complicated to be condemned or approved

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(8) "The Practical Results of Workmen's Insurance in Germany," published by The Workmen's Compensation Service and Information Bureau, 1 Liberty St., New York. See also Interim Report of the Ontario Commission, p. 128.

(9) Issued by Workmen's Compensation Publicity Bureau, 50 Maiden Lane, New York.